

From: Anna Gallegos Brannon
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 1:46pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Anna Gallegos-Brannon
President, LULAC Council #3027



January 28, 2002

Renata B. Hess
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D Street NW
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530-0001

via email (microsoft.atr@usdoj.gov)
VIA FACSIMILE: 202/307-1454 (or 202/616-9937)

SUBJECT: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Ms. Hesse:

The League of Latin American Citizens – Long Beach Council believes that the proposed settlement of the Microsoft antitrust case amounts to a reward for misconduct. Indeed, the settlement is so good for Microsoft, that it is attempting to buy off those who oppose it with an offer to California and other states to pay their legal costs – if they will step aside and let the sweetheart deal go ahead unchallenged.

This astonishing offer merely confirms the notion that Microsoft believes that all of its errors can be wished away by money. And, it's not the first time that Bill Gates' company has reached into its treasury and come up with dollars for politicians. During the 2000 political campaign, the company spent more than \$6 million on contributions to political campaigns, state parties and political action committees. One can only assume, it hoped to generate political pressure for a favorable settlement.

Whatever the reason, Microsoft has managed to negotiate a settlement, which to a remarkable degree would make it the arbiter of its own compliance – an astonishing turnabout for a company that has repeatedly skirted U.S. antitrust law and found guilty by several courts of abusing its monopoly power. California Attorney General Bill Lockyer is right to resist the settlement and to continue to press for a tough remedy that would limit Microsoft's ability to leverage its Windows monopoly and extend its market domination into more facets of our information age economy.

Nine state Attorneys General and the Corporation Counsel of the District of Columbia chose not to support the current Microsoft settlement and have offered proposals that will adequately address the agreement's loopholes. More specifically, these proposals require that Microsoft fulfill both technical and licensing obligations that will bring greater competition to the software market and greater choice to consumers. In addition, the proposals include more enforceable oversight provisions and stricter penalties in the event Microsoft does not comply with the settlement. The Long Beach Council of LULAC supports these proposals and urges the Court to adopt them.

Anna Gallegos Brannon
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